United States Patent [19]

Peters

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[54] **DIRECT CURSOR-CONTROLLED ACCESS TO MULTIPLE APPLICATION PROGRAMS AND DATA**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **364/521**; 364/900; 340/721; 340/734
[58] **Field of Search** .... 340/750, 754, 721, 723, 340/734; 358/903; 364/300, 518, 521, 200 MS File, 900 MS File

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method for navigating between and within application programs resident in a computer system provides easy access to the programs and data within the programs. Two or more windows may be optionally linked together in an arbitrary sequence to form a chain. A user may invoke a function resident in the computer system to directly access windows in the chain in a sequence determined by the order in which the user opens the windows in a given session. The method for traversing between windows in the chain involves a uniform, short procedure dependent on positioning of a pointing cursor within an active window and, for example, pressing a mouse button. Further access to data within any application program is available by following a procedure which, although slightly different from that used to navigate between programs, is still uniform and short when compared with that normally used to traverse application programs.

9 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets